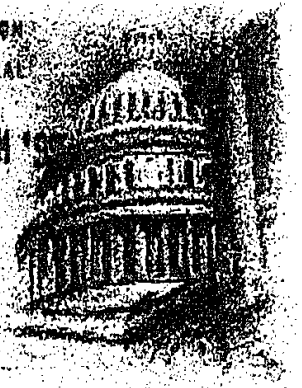


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JAN 14 3 31 PM '99



January 14, 1999

Mr. F. Andrew Turley
Supervisory Attorney
Central Enforcement Docket
Federal Election Commission
Washington, DC 20463

RE: MUR 4816

Dear Mr. Turley:

As per our conversation yesterday, I will respond to the complaint filed by Mr. Joe Khoury. As I mentioned in our phone conversation, the envelope containing Mr. Khoury's complaint had been filed along with other FCC documents and not opened until January 13, 1999 when it was found while we prepared to file our year-end congressional committee report. As soon as I read it, I contacted your office and, as per your instructions, will respond to those allegations.

I can assure you there is no need for any action to be taken against myself, my committee or campaign treasurer in this matter as there is absolutely no substance to the false and slanderous statements made by Mr. Khoury in his complaint. I shall respond to those complaints within the next couple of days as they warrant some thought and consideration before answering because of the way they have been presented. We do not foresee it taking any longer then this week-end when committee members will be able to meet and we will overnight our response on Monday, January 18, 1999. I believe the FEC and others Mr. Khoury has contacted in this matter deserve to know facts and not vindictive unsupported and libelous statements made by a candidate who has thrice lost a primary election.

Once again I beg your forgiveness for the oversight in not responding earlier to these charges. Had the envelope been opened and read when received, we would have immediately responded to those defamatory remarks within the time limit allowed, upon receipt of the letter. Your understanding in this delayed response is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

R. M. Cook Barela